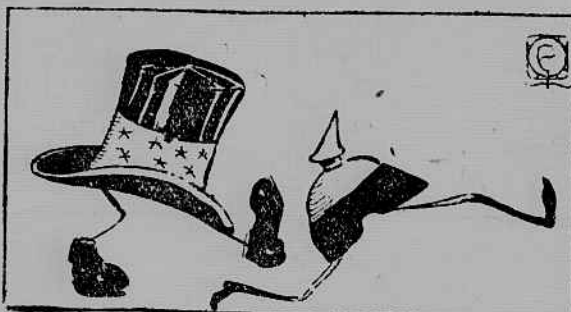


Surrender!

—From The Chicago Evening Post

The Road
to
Berlin

H. 420, Florence



The Western Front

"The American who does not feel that the hour for shouting is drawing nigh must indeed be written down as a hopeless pessimist."
Charlotte Observer.



The Germans Approaching Death Chant: "The Kaiser's Will Be Done!"
—From L'Asino, Rome



You Bet He's in a Hurry

—From The Nashville Tennessean



The End of Their Perfect Day

—From The Passing Show

The Wake of Kultur

—From Notenkraker, Amsterdam

"I'll Smash This Schweinhund Who Discovered America"

—From London Opinion



America Is Defiant of Hertling's "Offensive" Peace Offensive

CHANCELLOR VON HERTLING'S speech in the Reichstag—thought to be intended as the beginning of a "peace offensive"—has nowhere in the American press met with a reception favorable to that purpose. The two main points in it were: First, the announcement that Germany had no intention of keeping Belgium permanently in any form, and yet that Germany would treat Belgium as a "pawn" for future negotiations; and, second, the Allies were invited to come forward with "reasonable" peace terms and Germany

would not from the very start turn a deaf ear to them.

But the Chancellor's palpable bid for peace terms has been greeted by the press with a storm of indignant rejection. On every side he is told that the Allies will make no peace terms till Germany's armies are driven from France and Belgium. His insistence upon using Belgium as a counter in the general peace negotiations, after having said that Germany never had any intention to keep it, is referred to as a particularly crying example of moral obtuseness. Not a few editors compare this to an offer from a burglar to return the "goods" if he is paid for them. And through all the editorials there is the ring of an iron will to fight Germany till she is willing to acknowledge her defeat and accept peace on terms to

be imposed upon her by her enemies.

The Tribune cries "Surrender!" and, after speaking of the fatuousness of our wondering what terms Germany would regard as acceptable, adds:

"But there are no terms short of unconditional surrender that the world may accept from Germany with honor without infinite stultification. The Hun shall not stipulate anything. It is for us to name the conditions under which he may continue to exist. Either that or the world as it was before."

Equally biting is "The New York World":

"Indeed, Chancellor von Hertling's latest avowal that Belgium is to be held as a pawn for future negotiations, taken in connection with his ghastly falsehood that the German invasion and conquest were for defensive purposes only, shows that autocracy,

anxious as it is for a bargained peace, has added blackmail and banditry to its other crimes and stands wholly unashamed in the avowal. Since the world is in arms against the Central Powers to make such wrongs as those of Belgium impossible in the future, a Chancellor who coolly asks civilization to ransom his victim is still far from appreciating the character of the forces arrayed against him. He and his deluded people will have to find their answer in the resolute movements of the armies and navies of democratic nations, acting in self-defense, which for this war have dropped the words 'trading' and 'tribute' from their vocabularies."

"The New York Times" tells Hertling that—

"his words do not mean what he would like to have us think they mean—that Germany has abandoned any of her main designs. Germany's assurance that she does

not intend to keep Belgium is of no possible interest or importance; the Allies are going to drive her out of Belgium, out of France, in all the territory she now possesses there will be nothing left of the German occupying troops but their bones."

"There is nothing so offensive as a German peace offensive," remarks "The New York Herald," which adds:

"Germany at length realizes the inevitability of defeat and wishes to start negotiating while she still holds some pawns like Belgium and a major peace like Russia. She sees the Western front hard held by the Entente Allies, with strong reinforcements steadily arriving from the United States, and hesitates at making what in all probability would be her final big offensive and facing what might prove conclusive defeat."

"The New York Evening Post" insists that if Germany is sincerely

anxious for peace "it must produce overwhelming evidence that it is thoroughly honest," and goes on to observe:

"In this necessary work Chancellor von Hertling made a very bad beginning by what he said about Belgium. He affirms that Germany has no intention of holding on to Belgian territory, but will retain it as a 'pawn' on the chessboard of a peace conference. But what moral insensibility is revealed in this! Germany is in Belgium as a robber. Belgian territory is stolen goods. Ah, but we mean to restore them to the rightful owners. Only on terms, however. And what terms?"

Referring to Hertling's declaration that Germany was willing to listen to duly appointed representatives of the enemy powers, "The Brooklyn Daily Eagle" remarks:

"Nobody knows better than does the Chancellor that the powers referred to have

no thought of even talking of any such appointments. The present programme of the enemies of Germany is in one particular not subject to revision. That particular contemplates a fight to a finish."

Hertling's words about Belgium elicited the following from "The Springfield Republican":

"Chancellor von Hertling does not strengthen his statement about Belgium, already badly wrecked by the intervention of the hidden hand of the war lords, by going on to explain how Germany in evacuating that country would still keep a grip on it."

"The Philadelphia Inquirer" regards the declaration about Belgium as a "step in the right direction," provided "it is not to be promptly repudiated by the Chancellor's military masters," but that paper insists that—

"The surrender of Belgium must be both

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